

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Development Services and San Antonio Fire Department
MEMORANDUM

TO: SAFD and DSD Associates

FROM: Asst. Chief Earl Crayton II - Fire Marshal
Roderick Sanchez, AICP, CBO - Building Official

DATE: April 1, 2008

FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2007-003

TITLE: Requirements for the installation of duct mounted smoke detectors.

CODE EDITION: 2006 International Mechanical Code as adopted and amended by the City of San Antonio

2002 NFPA 90A – Standard for the Installation of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Systems as referenced by 2002 NFPA 72 – The National Fire Alarm Code

SECTION: 2006 International Mechanical Code Section 606

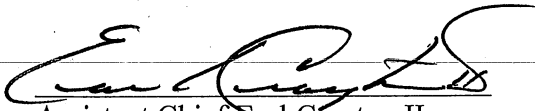
NFPA 90A, Section 6.4.2.1

PURPOSE: To clarify the requirements for the installation of duct mounted smoke detectors.

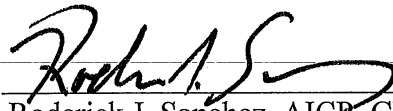
QUESTION: Under the requirements of Section 606 of the 2006 International Mechanical Code, duct mounted smoke detectors are required to be installed on the return air side of all air handling units having a total return side CFM rating that exceeds 2000 CFM. However Section 6.4.2.1 of NFPA 90A as referenced by NFPA 72 requires a duct mounted smoke detector on the supply side of an air handler unit with a supply side CFM rating of greater than 2000 CFM and a duct mounted smoke detector on the return side only if the total CFM rating on the return side exceeds 15000 CFM and serves more than one story of a facility. Given the dual requirements, and the fact that both the 2006 International Mechanical Code and the 2002 NFPA 72 along with it's referenced standards have been adopted by the City of San Antonio, are duct mounted smoke detectors required on both sides?

ANSWER:

No. The installation of a duct-mounted smoke detector on both sides constitutes an unnecessarily redundant equipment installation. The requirements of Section 606 of the International Mechanical Code as adopted and amended by the City of San Antonio shall be followed as the minimum design / installation to satisfy the fire safety function requirements of the San Antonio Fire Department and City of San Antonio Development Services Department.



Assistant Chief Earl Crayton II
Fire Marshal
San Antonio Fire Department



Roderick J. Sanchez, AICP, CBO
Director
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